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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,069	10/24/2003	Michael S. Bernstein	003797.00625	7644
28319	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER QUINN, NEIL P	
BANNER & WITCOFF LTD., ATTORNEYS FOR MICROSOFT 1001 G STREET, N.W. ELEVENTH STREET WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597			ART UNIT 2676	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/692,069

Applicant(s)

BERNSTEIN, MICHAEL S.

Examiner

Neil P. Quinn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Robotham, et al. (patent # 6,704,024).

In regard to claim 1, Robotham, et al. teach:

A process for caching ink information comprising the steps of:

**rendering ink** ( see Robotham, et al. Col. 1 Lines 23-34)

**writing information related to a transparency map relating to said ink** (see Robotham, et al. Col 50. Lines 45-55). Here, Robotham, et al. state that "This bitmap image can include per-pixel transparency data (such as an alpha channel)". This corresponds to writing information related to the claimed transparency map.

and, **caching said transparency map** (see Robotham, et al. Col. 14, Lines 12-20).

Here, Robotham, et al. state that, "This is the basis for many of the features and advantages of the present invention, such as server-side rendering, multi-level browsing, and caching methods based on rasterized representations." The caching methods based on rasterized representations correspond to the caching of transparency maps.

In regard to claim 2, Robotham, et al. teach: The process according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: storing said transparency map. The storing of this map is taught in (see Robotham, et al. Col. 1 Lines 23-34) where it is stated that the rendered image data is "...transformed into a bitmap for display".

In regard to claim 3, Robotham, et al. teach: The process according to claim 1, wherein said rendering step produces a bitmap of said ink. As stated above, this is taught in (see Robotham, et al. Col. 1 Lines 23-34).

In regard to claim 4, Robotham, et al. teach: The process according to claim 1, wherein said transparency map is an alpha channel of an image. (see Robotham, et al. Col. 50 Lines 45-55). The bitmap which "can include per-pixel transparency data (such as an alpha channel)" corresponds to the transparency map that is an alpha channel of an image.

In regard to claim 5, Robotham, et al. teach: The process according to claim 4, wherein said image is a bitmap image. Again, the bitmap is mentioned in (see Robotham, et al. Col 50 Lines 45-55).

In regard to claim 6, Robotham, et al. teach: A system for caching ink information comprising:  
**means for rendering ink** (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 1, Item 2 ). The processor in this server renders the ink;  
**means for writing information relating to a transparency map relating to said ink** (Fig. 1, Item 6). The mass storage device here writes the information relating to the transparency map;

**means for caching said transparency map** (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 1, Item 4).

The server memory can cache said transparency maps.

In regard to claim 7, Robotham, et al. teach: The system according to claim 6, further comprising: means for storing said transparency map. Again, (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 1 Item 6) provides a means for storing the map.

In regard to claim 8, Robotham, et al. teach: The system according to claim 6, wherein said means for rendering produces a bitmap of said ink. This rendering is handled by the server processor (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 1 Item 2). The bitmap output can also be seen in (Fig. 3 Item 14).

In regard to claim 9, Robotham, et al. teach: the system according to claim 6, wherein said transparency map is an alpha channel of an image. The system described has a transparency map that is an alpha channel of an image. (Fig. 3 Item 14) shows a bitmap pixel representation that corresponds to said transparency map.

Consider 10, Robotham, et al. teach: The system according to claim 9, wherein said image is a bitmap image. Again, (Fig. 3 Item 14) shows this bitmap representation that corresponds to the bitmap image.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robotham, et al. in view of Aleksic, et al. (Patent # 6,927,778).

In regard to claims 11 and 14, Robotham, et al. teach:

A process for displaying ink information comprising the steps of:

receiving transparency information relating to ink (see Robotham, et al. Col. 50 Lines 45-55 ).

Robotham, et al. do not specifically mention the combining of foreground and background information. However, these limitations are taught by Aleksic, et al. in their "System for Alpha Blending and Method Thereof".

Aleksic, et al. teach: combining said transparency information with foreground information; combining the combination of said transparency information and said foreground information with background information to form a resultant image; and, displaying said resultant image. ( see Aleksic, et al. Col 2. Lines 46-63). Specifically, Aleksic, et al. teaches that "...objects can be overlaid, in which a first object, a foreground object is to be displayed on top of another object, a background or

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*destination, object. The pixel data of the foreground object can be combined with the background object to simulate particular image effects. Alpha values are supplied to define a proportion of the foreground object and a proportion of the background object to use in generating an output pixel.*" (Aleksic, et al. Col 2. Lines 49-57). This use of combining objects with alpha values would be used in Robotham et al.'s system where the remote browser provides support for overlays (see Robotham, et al. Col. 50 Lines 45-55) The server 22 in Robotham, et al. sends the content overlay as an additional bitmap image to the client. That bitmap image, being a transparent map, is then combined with the client's current display to create an output image. The system for handling this process would take place in Robotham's rendering and pixel transform functions, as well as the client's display output. (see Robotham et al. Fig. 1, Items 22, 5 – including 'rendering function' and 'pixel transforms' processes). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to utilize the foreground/background combining as taught by Aleksic et al. in Robotham et al.'s system because the merging of foreground and background images to create an output through use of alpha blending is efficient and faster than rendering a full image.

In regard to claim 12, Robotham, et al. further teach: the process according to claim 11, wherein said transparency information is in an alpha channel of an image. (see Robotham, et al. Col. 50 Lines 45-55). The bitmap image which "can include per-pixel transparency data (such as an alpha channel)" corresponds to said transparency information which is an alpha channel of an image.

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In regard to claim 13, Robotham, et al. further teach the process according to claim 12, wherein said image is a bitmap image. (see Robotham, et al. Col. 1 Lines 23-34).

(see Robotham, et al. Col. 50 Lines 45-55).

In regard to claim 15, Robotham, et al. further teach: the system according to claim 11, wherein said transparency information is in an alpha channel of an image. (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 2, Item 14a) shows the bitmap that contains the transparency information which is an alpha channel of an image.

In regard to claim 16, Robotham, et al. further teach the system according to claim 12, wherein said image is a bitmap image. (see Robotham, et al. Fig. 1, Item 14).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Patent #5557301 – D'Aviau de Piolant et al. teach about basic digital ink inputs, and use of caching the image information into random access memory.

Patent #5969711 – Menzel teaches about storing input graphics into a memory cache, as well as storing the data into a database.

Patent #6518960 – Omura et al. teach about storing inputted stylus information into bitmap format

Patent #6903751 – Saund et al. teach about converting inputted digital images into bitmap graphics

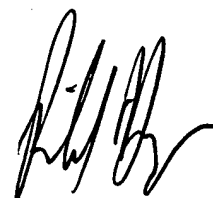


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil P. Quinn whose telephone number is 571-272-7745. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella, can be reached at 571-272-7778

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neil Quinn 7/15/2005

Handwritten signature of Neil Quinn, dated 7/15/05.Handwritten signature of Richard Hjerpe, dated 9/16/05.

RICHARD HJERPE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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